

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:GLGASTON:SC

5/8/74 EXT. 21108

APPROVED BY IO:AMB. BUFFUM

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION LINE 4, PARA 4)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: BUFFUM-LABOUISSSE MEETING MAY 7, 1974

1. HENRY LABOUISSSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF, PAID VISIT TO AMB. BUFFUM TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES WHICH MIGHT CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE U.S. AT THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MAY 12-24.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM AMB. BUFFUM REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OIL RICH COUNTRIES, LABOUISSSE SAID THAT HE HAD AND WAS CONTINUING TO URGE OIL RICH NATIONS TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNICEF. HE SAID THAT THE SHAH PROMISED TO INCREASE IRAN'S CONTRI-
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BUTION AND SAUDI ARABIA HAS INCREASED ITS CONTRIBUTION

FROM DOLS 30,000 TO DOLS 500,000.

3. LABOUISSIE INTRODUCED THE INDOCHINA PROGRAM AND MENTIONED SCALI VISIT WHERE THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED IN GREAT DETAIL. LABOUISSIE FOLLOWED UP THE MEETING BY FORWARDING LETTER TO SCALI GIVING THE HISTORY OF UNICEF ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN THE INDOCHINA AREA. HE CITED CLOTH PROVIDED TO NORTH VIETNAM IN 1967 BY UNICEF. AMB. BUFFUM ASKED IF INDOCHINA PROJECT WAS FINANCED FROM GENERAL RESOURCES. LABOUISSIE REPLIED THAT 1973 FUNDS FOR INDOCHINA BY THE BOARD WAS FOR ONGOING PROJECTS IN LAOS, CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. PROGRAMS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (DRVN) AND THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG) WERE FUNDED BY CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY UNICEF FOLLOWING A SPECIAL APPEAL BY LABOUISSIE. HE SAID THAT NO U.S. FUNDS WERE IN THIS SPECIAL APPEAL AND NO U.S. FUNDS HAD BEEN USED IN ANY ACTIVITIES IN DRVN OR PRG TERRITORY. SINCE UNICEF EXPECTS ADDITIONAL FUNDS AS A RESULT OF THE APPEAL IT IS LABOUISSIE'S EXPECTATION THAT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO FUND ALL PROGRAMS IN THE DRVN AND PRG. HE INDICATED THAT HE COULD NOT PROMISE THAT GENERAL RESOURCES FUNDS WOULD NOT BE USED IN THE DRVN AND THE PRG IN THE FUTURE. BUT HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN.

4. AMB. BUFFUM IN REPLY SAID THAT WE WERE CONCERNED THAT NO UNICEF ASSISTANCE BE GIVEN PRG AREAS THAT WOULD IMPLY RECOGNITION. LABOUISSIE SAID UNICEF REPORT WOULD MAKE THIS CLEAR. BUFFUM ALSO SAID NO USG MONEY SHOULD BE USED FOR SUCH PURPOSE AND ADDED THAT IF GENERAL RESOURCES FUNDS WERE GOING TO BE USED U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SCELSI WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A CLEAR PRESENTATION AGAINST THE USE OF U.S. FUNDS IN SUCH ACTIVITIES AT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING.

5. MR. LABOUISSIE MADE A STRONG REQUEST THAT THE U.S. INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UNICEF TO DOLS 22 MILLION IN 1975. HE SAID IF THE DOLS 15 MILLION LEVEL WAS MAINTAINED, THE U.S. PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GOVERNMENT DONATIONS WOULD BE 25 IN 1974. AMB. BUFFUM INDICATED THAT HE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYMPATHETIC; HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT FY 75 BUDGET REQUEST HAD ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED AT DOLS 15 MILLION LEVEL.
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